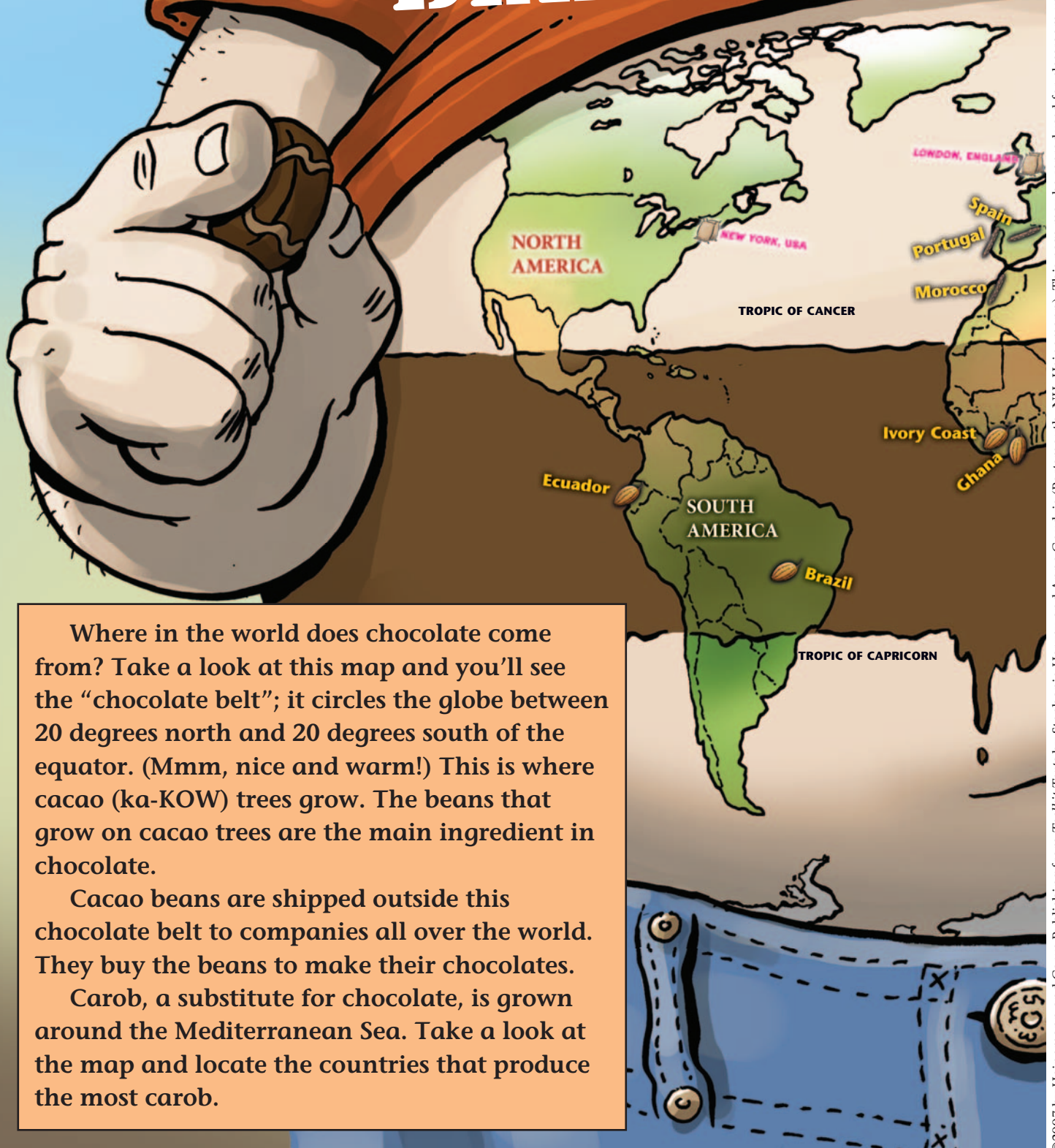


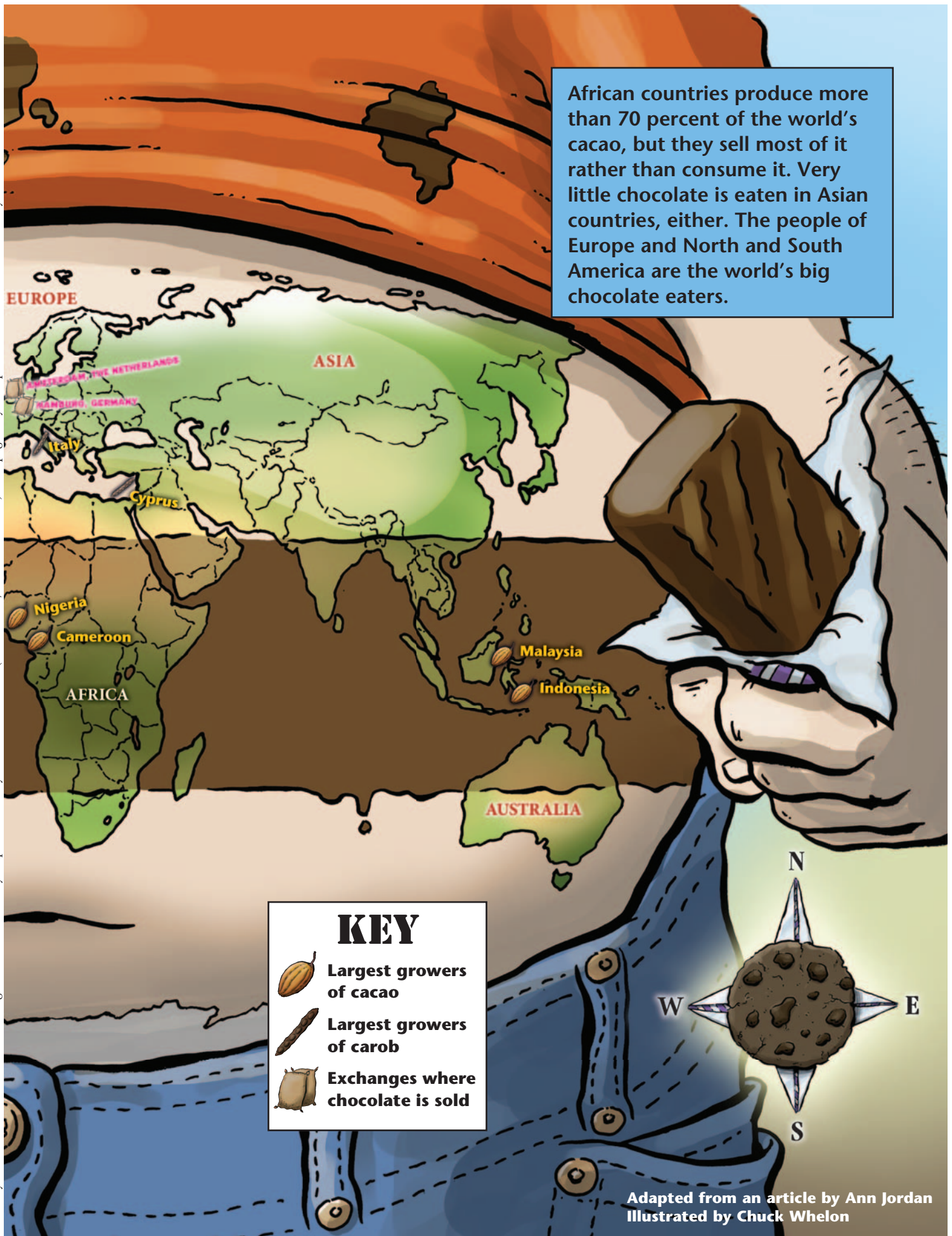
THE CHOCOLATE BELT



Where in the world does chocolate come from? Take a look at this map and you'll see the "chocolate belt"; it circles the globe between 20 degrees north and 20 degrees south of the equator. (Mmm, nice and warm!) This is where cacao (ka-KOW) trees grow. The beans that grow on cacao trees are the main ingredient in chocolate.

Cacao beans are shipped outside this chocolate belt to companies all over the world. They buy the beans to make their chocolates.

Carob, a substitute for chocolate, is grown around the Mediterranean Sea. Take a look at the map and locate the countries that produce the most carob.



African countries produce more than 70 percent of the world's cacao, but they sell most of it rather than consume it. Very little chocolate is eaten in Asian countries, either. The people of Europe and North and South America are the world's big chocolate eaters.